

RED ROCK RELAY EXPLAINED

The Red Rock Relay is a 12 man team event that covers 180 miles of Utah's most scenic country. The race begins on the slopes of Brianhead Resort and finishes at the Tuacahn Amphitheatre in Ivins, Utah. Teams run for 24 hours on average with each team member taking 3 separate legs of 5 miles each. The other team members await their next turn in the team vehicles at designated parking and exchange areas. An important part of the Red Rock Relay experience is solitude while running through the majestic southern Utah landscape. This is accomplished through staggered start times and the long distance nature of the race. This also means our athletes can pass through most areas virtually unnoticed as opposed to large group races that require road closures and heavy traffic redirection. Within the initial stages of the race most runners are separated by up to a number of miles at a time.

As previously mentioned, the race has very little impact on the course and environment it passes through. Teams provide their own runners with water, food, basic first aid, and most other support needed at the designated exchange points. Each participating Team is required to provide 2 volunteers to help give support, direction, and cleanup after the racers that pass through their assigned portion of the course. There are also sweeper volunteers that travel lengths of the course scouring for any possible debris after the final runners make their way along the course. We are committed to protecting our beautiful State and helping others appreciate it as well.

Since runners are starting at staggered times, all athletes will be spaced out but will maintain an approximate 4 hour time between the first and last team. This means all athletes will pass through any given point within a 4 hour time block allowing roads to be left open and relatively undisturbed to other travelers and visitors.

Washington County Land Use Authority Meeting
July 14, 2009

Item #6. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT. Request permission for the "Redrock Relay Race" from Brian Head to Kolob Road, through the communities, then on to Hwy. 91 to the Gunlock Road, ending at Veyo, Saturday, September 4 and 5, 2009, within the County unincorporated areas. Tim Collings, applicant

The planner explained that this two (2) day event is sponsored by Tim Collings/Red Rock Relay, which is a twelve (12) man team event that covers one hundred eighty (180) miles from Brian Head Resort and finishes at the Tuacahn Amphitheater in Ivins. The unincorporated areas for County review will be the Kolob Road to Virgin and the loop from Ivins to Gunlock and northeast to Veyo then south through Snow Canyon to Tuacahn. These types of events are reviewed conditionally at a public meeting to ensure that citizens have the opportunity to comment on the application. The planner reminded the commissioners that the applicant will need a liability insurance policy in place, listing Washington County as a beneficiary. The Washington County Sheriff's Department is aware of the event and has been working with the applicant on schedules. The planner advised the commission that they should review sanitary facilities, and what is provided at the designated exchange points, as indicated in the summary.

Tim Collings, applicant, explained that this is the first year, but this type of race has been gaining in popularity. With staggered start times, there will be minimal impact on the roads. Teams will begin every five to ten (5-10) minutes, with the fastest teams beginning last, so the end time won't be delayed.

Todd Edwards, Public Works Department, said that Ron Whitehead, Public Works Director expressed concern for safety because the event is being held on Labor Day weekend. Mr. Collings explained that the state roads have already been approved by UDOT, the runners will travel opposing traffic so that oncoming vehicles will be more visible, reflective vest and head lamps will be required for runners at night, and there will be signs and barricades on all UDOT roads.

Mr. Collings said that each member of the team will run about five (5) miles at a time, and every thirty (30) miles there will be a base location with food, first aid and restrooms. Spectators will not be allowed along the course, only at the finish line.

Todd Edwards, Public Works Department, expressed concern about the narrowness of Kolob Road, and the possibility of the edge of the road being further broken down. The Park hasn't put gravel on the shoulders of the road, so the runners will need to be aware and take precautions in that area.

Motion was made by Commissioner Everett to recommend approval for a Conditional Use Permit for the Redrock Relay Race, for a period of one (1) year. Commissioner Cropper seconded the motion. Five (5) commissioners voted Aye. The motion carried.

